

**MIDDLESEX TOWNSHIP  
WORKSHOP MEETING  
September 30, 2011**

**OFFICIALS PRESENT:**    **SUPERVISORS:**    Vice-Chairman Donald S. Geistwhite, Jr.  
Steve Larson  
                                 **SOLICITOR:**       Keith O. Brenneman  
                                 **POLICE CHIEF:**    Chief Barry Sherman  
                                 **ZONING OFFICER:** Mark Carpenter  
                                 **MANAGER:**        Eileen M. Gault  
                                 **FIRE CHIEF:**        Ed Beam

**OFFICIALS ABSENT:**    **SUPERVISORS:**    Chairman Victor P. Stabile  
                                 **ENGINEER:**        Bud Grove

Vice-Chairman Mr. Geistwhite called the meeting to order at 7:31 a.m. in the Middlesex Township Building.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**COMMISSIONER BARBARA CROSS:** Commissioner Cross was present to discuss the matter of the Radios with regards to Public Safety. The County has been working on the matter of the radios failing and the lack of being able to communicate with other Public Safety Officials. With the recent storms she had not heard from municipalities that had flooding issues that the radios had failed or were not working. Commissioner Cross stated that it would be most helpful if specifics are recorded when the radios fail or are not working. This may assist the County to budget for a possible solution. Mr. Geistwhite has asked that the County keep Chief Sherman informed with regards to resolving the frequency issues as any changes occur with regards to Deer Lane. Commissioner Cross stated that this matter has to be treated as a relationship and everyone involved has to work together to make this happen and continue to work.

**KEYSTONE ARMS ASSOCIATES, LLC – SPECIAL EXCEPTION APPLICATION LOT 165:** John Andrews, Attorney, Eric Brinser of Rettew Associates and Dave Marschka were present to discuss the change to the Land Development Plan. This is an approved Land Development Plan; however, the change is the subject of the Special Exception which is the drive thru window at the ice cream shop. It is not your typical drive thru window with a speaker system, it is a little sign with a menu then you pull up to the window and order. The Planning Commission had some concerns which were addressed and added such as a dumpster pad; do not enter sign at the exit of the drive thru and additional parking spaces. The Planning Commission did recommend three (3) conditions of approval. One being that if a speaker system does ever go in the noise cannot exceed a reasonable level or create a public nuisance, trash pick-up not to occur between 8 p.m. and 5 a.m., and additional directional signage at the entry for delivery trucks only. The Supervisors agreed with the recommendations from the Planning Commission and are in support of this Special Exception. A Special Exception Application is before the Zoning Hearing Board with a hearing scheduled for October 12, 2011.

**PLANNING COMMISSION REVIEW OF DRAFT ZONING ORDINANCE AMENDMENT TO ALLOW CHANGEABLE SIGNS IN VC, CH, LI AND IG ZONING DISTRICTS:**

Mr. Larry Claycomb, Mr. Jim Dries and Mr. Mike Buchannan of the Planning Commission were present to discuss some concerns regarding the amendment to changeable signs. The biggest concern was the negative affect this type of sign could have on highway safety. The Planning Commission is recommending that when a formal request is received by the Board of Supervisors, they would like to have an opportunity to study and review the proposed amendment with ample time to do so. The Supervisors are in support of the Zoning Ordinance Amendment and agree that time limits and illumination is a couple of major issues among other issues that will need to be addressed. The Planning Commission will prepare a letter to the Supervisors summarizing this matter. Mr. Carpenter will inform the applicant to work with the Planning Commission to address the concerns as discussed.

**YORK WASTE CONTRACT EXTENSION:** On the motion of Mr. Geistwhite, seconded by Mr. Larson, it was unanimously agreed to extend for one (1) more year, until March 31, 2012, the contract between Middlesex Township and Republic Services, dba as York Waste Disposal, for trash removal and recycling goods pick-up at the current contract price and to authorize execution of the Addendum to do so.

**EMERGENCY DECLARATION:** Chief Sherman had consulted with the Township Solicitor Mr. Brenneman after the recent storms concerning the formal process for declaring an emergency in Middlesex Township if a disaster were to occur. Mr. Brenneman suggested that he can draft a formal resolution and just input the disaster of the day when needed, it is then in writing and can be submitted to a State Agency if need be. The Supervisors were in agreement that this needs to be done and agreed with the formal resolution.

**CABLE, TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND BROADBAND LEGAL ASSESSMENT:** Mr. Brenneman reported that he as well as the Township received a letter from Cohen Law Group a well know firm in Pittsburg offering to review any cable, telephone or general easement maintenance agreements or ordinances and give their assessment of them for free. Mr. Brenneman stated that the Township recently renewed the Verizon contract in 2008 for ten (10) years so the review is irrelevant at this present time. For the Comcast Cable Agreement negotiated, Mr. Brenneman took Mr. Cohen's agreement he negotiated for the COG completed October 2010 and used that for negotiations. The Supervisors agreed that there was no need for Mr. Brenneman to respond to this matter or to have the free assessment done.

**ELECTRIC ENERGY SERVICES AGREEMENT:** Mrs. Gault reported that the current electric agreement is going to expire January 1, 2012 and was presenting to the Supervisors agreements from the current carrier Liberty Power and a new proposal from Hudson Energy. Mr. Brenneman has reviewed both agreements and found them to be standard. The only difference is that Liberty will contact us six (6) months prior to the expiration, whereas, Hudson does not. On the motion of Mr. Geistwhite, seconded by Mr. Larson, it was unanimously agreed to authorize the Township Manager to enter into a one (1) year contract with Liberty Power at a rate of .086730 per kwh.

**2011 TRAFFIC SIGNALS MAINTENANCE BID AWARD:** On the motion of Mr. Geistwhite, seconded by Mr. Larson, it was unanimously agreed to authorize Chief Sherman to award Atlantic Transportation System (ATS) the Traffic Signal Maintenance Contract for a

regular time rate of \$65.00 per hour, over time at \$130.00 per hour, flagger safety personnel at \$40.00 per hour, over time flagger at \$60.00 per hour and the annual preventive maintenance for \$2,925.00.

**PMRS – MINIMUM MUNICIPAL OBLIGATION (MMO):** On the motion of Mr. Geistwhite, seconded by Mr. Larson, it was unanimously agreed to authorize payment of the 2012 MMO for the Middlesex Township Police Pension Plan 21-039-5P and the Middlesex Township Non-Uniform Pension Plan 21-039-5N.

Chief Sherman reported that in the past month there have been two (2) floods which have left a ½ inch of mud on the Letort Falls Park Parking Lot. Chief Sherman was able to get N. Middleton Fire Co. who was kind enough to hose the parking lot down and would like authorization to pay them \$200.00 for each occurrence. On the motion of Mr. Geistwhite, seconded by Mr. Larson it was unanimously agreed to authorize Chief Sherman to donate to N. Middleton Fire Co. for their assistance in cleaning the Letort Falls Park \$200.00 per occurrence.

On the motion of Mr. Stabile, seconded by Mr. Larson and there being no further business, it was unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 a.m.